

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
	<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
	<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>	
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
	<i>(Saturdays from 1 March: 10am - 1 pm; Wednesdays from 16 April: 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	771718
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141 or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Vicar:	<i>Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
Curate:	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
Wardens:	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
Administrator:	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
Web site:	<i>www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
Services:	<i>See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
Services:	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00 pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT		
Parish Deacon	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
Services:	<i>Holy Days 7.30 pm Sundays 11.00 am Mass For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

Priest	<i>Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade</i>	
Holy Days	<i>7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Sundays 9.30 am Mass</i>

From The Editors

Despite the awful weather and the amounts of water still visible in unusual places, Purtonians continue to plan and prepare for future events and excitements in the village. For example, maybe now is the time for readers to start a little spring cleaning and looking around for items that might be suitable for the annual Age Concern auction in the Village Hall on 1 March. There is more information on [page 9](#).

Lent Lunches start again on 5 March in the Purton Methodist church. In addition, this Lent, Purton joins with the churches of Cricklade and Upper Thames to hear a series of talks by a range of speakers on how their Faith engages with their lives and work. The list of speakers on [page 27](#) includes a Premier League footballer, a classical music composer, a retired High Court judge and a famous diet and fitness leader. Entry is free with a pre-arranged ticket.

The annual Parish Meeting is on Monday 31 March in the Village Hall at which Dr Andrew Morrison and Mrs Naomi Clarke will introduce themselves to the community as Head of Bradon Forest School and Acting Head of St Mary's School respectively. Other AGMs include the Purton Historical Society's on Thursday 27 March, also in the Village Hall (see [page 31](#)) when Paul Booy will give a talk on "The Coming of World War 1".

On the same subject, there are details on [page 28](#) of Wiltshire's Great War Community Event, while Rick Dixon's Great War project has reached part 8 and can be found on [page 29](#).

In preparation for some outdoor activities, Purton Bowls Club will be holding a pre-season meeting on 21 March (see [page 40](#)) while Purton Cricket club continue their indoor nets until the weather is kind enough to let them move outdoors. From the report on [page 41](#), we learn that no fewer than 16 juniors have been signed up to take part in the 10 week Winter Academy Coaching Scheme to learn cricket skills and techniques. Please can the juniors hurry up their learning – they are needed at the national level already after the Ashes humiliation down under.

Looking further forward there will be an opportunity for people to abseil inside Cricklade church – and if that's a bit too much, there will also be a Teddy Bear Parachute event – all in aid of Christian Aid; see [page 24](#).

5th - 6th

July is the weekend for
Purton Open Gardens
this year
– see [page 21](#)

250

is the maximum number
of lots at the
Age Concern Auction
– see [page 9](#)

£390

was raised by the Purton
Peartree Pealers for the
Prospect Hospice
– see [page 39](#)

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Purton
Magazine

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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Flooding Church End – Many of you will have noted that the road at Church End is no longer flooded. The Parish Council and Cllr Geoff Greenaway in particular have been actively involved in dealing with this issue following Wiltshire Council's stance that the flooding was due to a perceived obstruction within the culvert leading from the pond that is



situated on private land and therefore not within the remit of Wiltshire Council to deal with. Following this statement, the Parish Council engaged with the relevant landowners to trace the route of the culvert. From such exploratory work it was established that the blockage was in fact under potential highway and not private land and, following further discussion, Wiltshire Council agreed to excavate a section of the highway in order to find the cause of the problem. The result was the extraction of a dustbin. Yes a dustbin!

Reporting of Highway Issues

If you see any pot holes or other defects on the highway you can report direct to Wiltshire Council on 0800 23 23 23 (freephone from a landline); 01225 777234 (from a mobile or outside the county of Wiltshire); or clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk. Alternatively you can report to the Parish Council Office on 771066. Wiltshire Council has now got an App for the iPhone and Android devices that you can download, so you can report issues at the time you see them. This in turn picks up your GPS location of the issue, so no need to explain where the issue is. For more information on what you can report on the App, visit Wiltshire Council website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirelogin.htm

Road Closures – Between 17/3/14 and 30/4/14 the road between Purton and Cricklade will be closed at various sections for resurfacing work so be prepared for delays and diversions. More information will be available on the Parish Council web site.

Annual Parish Meeting – this year's meeting will be held on Monday 31 March in Purton Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Dr Andrew Morrison the Head of Bradon Forest School will be present to introduce himself to the community also Mrs Naomi Clarke the Acting Head of St Mary's School. The Police will give an update on policing in and around the village and the Parish Council will present its annual report. This is always an interesting meeting so please come along and join us. This is your annual meeting and you are welcome to ask any questions you may have, we may not be able to answer them on the night but we can find out and get back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dog Walkers – Lambing will be taking place over the next few weeks, and sadly we have already received a report from a local farmer that one of his sheep has aborted her lamb due to being chased by a dog. Please keep your dogs on a lead when near livestock to prevent injury and distress to the animals. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation and support for local landowners.

Hare Coursing – We have been asked to raise awareness of this illegal activity and to advise on what you should do if you see it in progress.

Hare coursing involves groups of people, who often travel distances to carry out their 'sport'. Groups have been identified from as far afield as Lincolnshire, Southampton, and South Wales, meeting up in Wiltshire with packs of dogs.

The activity is usually structured with 4 people in a 4x4 with dogs; and is in essence a form of gambling, as well as usually resulting in the catch and death of the hare. A lurcher type of dog is released to chase a hare and participants bet on, for example, the number of turns made by the hare, how long it takes to catch the hare or which direction the hare will go next.

The perpetrators of hare coursing frequently cut fences, damage crops, verbally abuse and intimidate anybody challenging them; make threats, damage property, livestock and even physically assault landowners. They drive anti-socially, damaging the environment and disturbing the peace.

Call 999 if you see anything suspicious and **do not** approach the people under any circumstances. Please stay vigilant.

Telephone Box at the Institute – In our January news we reported about the re-opening of the telephone box at the Institute which has been refurbished as a 21st century communications platform by Ben Wildeboer of Lde Digital Services. Have you used the facility yet? You can make free phone calls (not international), and connect to WiFi among other things. This is the first of its kind which prompted some media interest and we hope this will prove to be a useful new facility. If you have a local event that you would like advertised on the screen, please email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Purton Library – Recently a weekly group has been set up to meet in the library on Thursdays 11.30 - 1 pm for people with memory loss, dementia and their carers. This is funded by Wiltshire Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, the sessions are free of charge and refreshments and all reading materials are provided. For more information please contact Josephine Corcoran, project facilitator on 07812 238503 or email josephinecorcoran@thereader.org.uk

The following planning applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

- N13/05134/FUL *Lower Farm, Purton Stoke* – Storage for 6 touring caravans
 - N13/05902/FUL *The Broadways, Hayes Knoll* – Change of Use from agricultural to equestrian and domestic garden and erect stable block.
 - N13/06359/FUL *12 Station Road* – Dropped kerb & parking.
 - N13/01865/TCA *Holly Lodge, 4 Church Street* – Fell one eucalyptus tree and crown lift two beech trees to 8 metres.
 - N13/03934/FUL *Drill Farm Wood Lane, Braydon* – Car ports/garage, part two storey & part single storey extension.
 - N13/05228/SCR *Land at Manor Hill Farm* – Screening opinion for proposed solar park. Environmental Impact Assessment required.
 - N13/05889/FUL *Broadways, Hayes Knoll* – Proposed extension.
-

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council's letter box is on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute.

On our new web site you can join up to receive regular updates and newsletters which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site. We currently have over 80 people signed up and we have been getting some very good feedback. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

News from the Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

We are very disturbed at past vandalism we have had at the Centre and are looking at ways we can do something about it. It is such a shame when the Centre is there in memory of those who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war. I doubt if there is a greater local memorial anywhere in the country than the one we have. It is a living memorial with all that goes on there and what a position.

We would like you to give us some feedback on an idea that has been suggested about the public tennis court. The idea is to mark out various courts in different colours for basketball, five-a-side football, netball – well basically anything that could fit in there. We are not doing away with the tennis court but feel it could be put to better use, so please put your ideas into the Council Office – tel. 771066. It is the same with any ideas you might have for the Centre to make it more enjoyable for the people of Purton and beyond.

The groundsman at the football club does make an excellent job of the pitch, especially with all the rain we have had. It is a real credit to him and better than most professional grounds. Well done. We apologise for the barriers not being put in – they are all there ready but the reason being the groundsman's workload and the weather.

It was a very kind gesture of the late Miss Elizabeth Ward's family to give the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre a donation for allowing people to park at the Centre for Miss Elizabeth's funeral and is very much appreciated.

The Village Hall

It all seems to be running well (famous last words). The gentlemen appreciate the new toilets and the hall is also getting used well.

We have had complaints from hirers of the Hall about people parking their cars in the Village Hall Car Park because, when they book the Hall, they also book the car park. It is not a PUBLIC CAR PARK. We turn a blind eye to people just stopping for five minutes but to stop there all the time is not allowed, like the person who parked all the weekend of Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th in a disabled parking place and they didn't even have a disabled sticker. If this carries on we will have to take more drastic action.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

The Old Buildings of St Mary's School

Part of the agreement with Wiltshire Council to build the new St Mary's School requires the Trustees of the School to sell the old buildings to contribute towards its cost. Purton has benefited from the new school for more than two years now but the Trustees still have to deliver on their commitment to sell the school to reimburse Wiltshire Council. The Trustees of the School are the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary's Church, Purton (but not the Parish or Church Councils) and are supported to fulfil their responsibilities by the Board of Education of the Diocese of Bristol.

As Trustees, like it or not, it is our responsibility to maximise the value of the sale of the old site. However, both the Diocese and the Trustees are mindful of how special the old school is to many in Purton; many readers went to school there. We are also aware that the old buildings are in a very sensitive position at the heart of the village with limited access. That is why the Diocese appointed consultants to help with the sale, and developed and obtained planning and disposal permission for a residential development that will keep and convert some of the better buildings. These plans were shared with the village some months ago. Many commented on them and as a consequence they have been improved.

Completing some of the detailed work around the planning process has taken a little more time and now the consultants are ready to market the site. This is not before time as, if you have looked at the old school buildings recently, you may have noticed that they are starting to deteriorate.

The Trustees and the Diocese have done their best to protect the interests of the people of Purton after the sale, for example it is intended to put a requirement on the developer to provide a path across the old school site for access to the new school by parents with their children. However, after the sale we are not able to stop the new owner from applying for planning permission for new proposals for the site if they choose. We have tried to minimise this likelihood with the planning permissions we have already obtained. The village is also protected from any less appropriate proposals made by the new owner by the usual planning process and the continuing constraints of a Conservation Area.

Finally let me try and answer the question often asked, why cannot the old school site be developed as a community centre or the like? This is not something we are permitted to do as Trustees of the School since, as mentioned above, we are already committed to selling it to reimburse Wiltshire Council. The village has done very well out of this deal; the cost of the new school is many times the value of the old and the new school is a fantastic new asset for the village. Of course it would be possible for the village if it had the funds or a wealthy benefactor if they chose, to bid for the site for community use but we think this is unlikely.

*DAVE NETTLETON, Churchwarden Purton
and Trustee of St Mary's Church of England School*

Purton Profferings - *Recycle your unwanted items to a new owner here*

*To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)).
Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.*

Purton & District Age Concern



Could I start by saying very many thanks to Jenny Bell for all the work and support she has given us over the years as street warden for the top part of Pavenhill – Royal George to the top of Braydon Hill and back down to 48. Jenny hasn't enjoyed the best of health lately but has persevered over the years, never complaining but always doing her best. However, she has now finally thought that she would like to hand over to someone else. So many thanks Jenny for all your help and support which has been greatly appreciated and let's hope and pray you will be restored to health shortly. On the good news side, we have a young lady who is prepared to take her place. Her name is Mrs Lucy Lewis, who lives at Montana, Pavenhill. If she hasn't already, she will be in touch with the elderly of you in that area so very many thanks to Lucy for agreeing to take on the job. I know she will get good advice from her sister Emma, who is an excellent street warden of ours in Restrop View.

In the past you have contacted your street warden if you need the Bobby Van or you are having problems with your smoke alarm. They have asked if, in future, you contact them direct as it will be easier for them to make arrangements with you about when they can call. The number for the Bobby Van is 01225 794652 and for smoke alarms you ring 0800 3897849. The same thing applies for the minibus – ring Maurice on 770338 and he will deal with you personally. Can I also remind you that the Luncheon Club still has vacancies. If you would like to have a hot meal among friends at 12 noon on a Tuesday or a Thursday at the Silver Threads, ring Pat Suddaby on 771331.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated fifty years of Age Concern in Purton. The Historical Society have been kind enough to allow us to put on an exhibition in the Museum until the end of April, starting on 22 February from 10 am to 4 pm. After that date it will be on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm (and on Wednesdays from 16 April). I know that this will be well worth seeing as the lady who is the principal behind this is Rita Webb. Very many thanks Rita – the trouble and depth you have gone to is greatly appreciated as is everyone else's input.

There will still be time to put items into our Auction on Saturday 1 March from 9 am to 11.30 am at the Village Hall. We limit the sale to 250 lots so please come early. Viewing is from 12 noon to 1 pm and the auction starts at 1 pm conducted by our friend Roderick Wightman. Please remember we do not take any beds, settees, armchairs or anything that is upholstered that hasn't got a fire safety warranty with it, useless items, old gas appliances, electrical goods over two years old without a safety warranty, clothes, poor quality or faulty items or books (except specialist books). If you would like an auction leaflet with our conditions on it so that you can fill in details of any items you are bringing to the sale, please give me a ring on 770696. This can help to speed up the booking-in process.

Our Burns night went very well – in fact some have said it's the best yet. We didn't sell quite so many tickets as in other years but it was still very successful and there was a little bit more room which was an advantage to the dancers. Apart from

the fundraising side of the event, we were very pleased with the new help we had blending in well with the old which, hopefully, will stand us in good stead for the future as we older ones take a back seat and the younger ones carry on our work. What is most important is that everyone we spoke to thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Sadly next year (yes we are having one next year) the piper is retiring so we shall be looking for a piper to pipe in the haggis, so if anyone can point us in the right direction it would be appreciated.

Following on from that we had a very successful jumble sale, so many thanks to you all who contributed to this in one way or another, giving, helping or buying. At the end of the day we shall make £300 clear profit and after the sale the committee went to The Angel for a most enjoyable dinner (not on the proceeds I hasten to add). For the Burns Night and the jumble sale, we had two young lads helping us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. My word, what great asset they were to our organisation – everything seemed to get done twice as quickly with their help so very many thanks to Morgan Crumbie and Alfie Griffin.

Our first mystery tour is on Wednesday 2 April starting at 10 am, cost £13 with lunch provided. For non-pensioners or outsiders the cost is £14.50. Hope to see you there. Remember we are testing them again to see if there are sufficient numbers this year, so really it is up to you. Have a look at your Christmas newsletter in advance for all the dates of trips out and other functions we have arranged for you like the 3Bs evening at the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 11 April – details of this next month.

We are indeed grateful for a very generous donation from the Rev. Miles Charity – this is a charity in Lydiard Tregoz so our grateful thanks to all concerned. It is greatly appreciated as is the kind donation from Bim and Marlene Herbert. They always have a great display of Christmas lights with a collection box outside, the proceeds of which they have given to us, so our thanks go to them. We have also had a generous donation from the Purton Probus group – again many thanks to them for their kind thought.

Finally, belated congratulations to Mrs Woodward and Mrs Smith on celebrating their ninetieth birthdays – there must be good air in Highridge Close. Well done, ladies. I spoke of the mystery tours earlier on and these two ladies are regulars on these trips. We hope to see them on our first one on Wednesday 2 April.

TONY PRICE

Silver Threads Club

We are just starting a new year and we have vacancies for new members 60 and over, male or female. We welcome you to join us with lots going on all the year.

We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 pm and transport is available if required. Our Hall is warm, cosy and friendly, so why not come along and meet us and, if you like is, come and join?

My name is **Pauline Ward, tel. 770251**, Secretary. Just give me a ring and I can tell you all about the Club.

Do hope you will come along. See you.

Mr Robert Miles

I would like to write a little piece about a man who has touched many people if not always directly but indirectly. The person I am talking about is Robert Miles, someone who I have always found reliable, trustworthy and helpful. It is a terrible shame when someone of his character and nature has to be taken from us so early in life – still I suppose He needs some good people up there as well and Robert will certainly leave us with a lot of happy memories.

Robert was born in Swindon on 29 November 1972 and was the eldest of two brothers – the other one being Leslie. Robert lived with his nan in Reids Piece – he loved it there. Robert had a lot of time for his nan and he always spoke of her with affection. They had a lovely understanding and respect for one another, also helping each other. His nan looked after Robert and, later in life, Robert looked after his nan and supported her. When he left school he went on to further education and got certificates and qualifications in business studies. He had various jobs in his short life and it didn't matter where he worked (Bert and Rosemary Hicks, Toomers Garden Centre, the cinema at West Swindon, Toys R Us on security and the same at Iceland), the customers always said how kind and pleasant he was – always prepared to help. Robert made many friends at Iceland where he was well respected and liked, but he wouldn't give any favours – after all he was security. He was a trusted person that you could depend on. A friend of Robert's at Iceland, Ray Whiston, gives here a good idea of what Robert was like at work, bearing in mind he had two jobs when he worked there, one at Iceland and one at the cinema.

This is what Ray read out at the funeral – “What can you say about Rob. First Rob was a good friend, not a close friend but a good friend. Rob was helpful, friendly, good at his job, sometimes too good. Rob did it by the book. If your fridge temperature wasn't right, if you didn't have a seal number coming back in on your run sheet, it was like Armageddon! I came back once without a seal number. ‘Where's your seal number Ray?’ ‘Sorry mate, totally forgot it – just put one in there’. ‘I can't do that’ Rob said, wrote on the run sheet ‘no seal number’ and let me in. Unknown to me Rob also informed the traffic office who gave me a lecture. When I came out, Rob said, ‘Won't do that again Ray, will you’. I respected Rob for that – he was doing his job but I still called him a few names.

“You just couldn't help liking Rob. He was always smiling. I used to call him big, bad Rob. I don't think I'll ever forget those immortal words he used to say to me – ‘sign here, cab search’. I'll miss asking him what's the film on this week, as he was the projectionist over at the local cinema. Now I know why the Great Escape wasn't on over Christmas – Rob had it up there showing everyone. We all know what Rob's doing up there – checking seals in and out of Heaven.

“That was the Rob I knew – every time I come into the depot and I see Spencer sat on one table, I keep expecting to see Rob on the other table. Rest in peace Rob, we all miss you.” I thought this was such a lovely tribute.

Working hard like Robert did, holidays were very important and off he would go on his travels alone around the world. He liked to explore places where he hadn't

been before like America, Australia, Canada and many more. It was not all a bed of roses and a lot of times Robert really struggled to make ends meet, but that was what was nice about him – no matter what his problems were he always had time for other people and would help them if he could. Robert would, I suppose, call himself a ‘people person’. He loved to chat to others whether they were young, old or in the middle. Who hasn’t gone into the shop to get a paper and, if Robert was there and nobody waiting, it was always a chat. It was the same at Toomers Garden Centre. You would go for a bag of compost and here again, he would get it, lift it in the car and, of course, you would have a chat. I cannot ever remember talking to him and him moaning about anything.

Robert was lucky with the neighbours in Jean and Les Walker but what a shock with Les dying shortly after Robert. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jean and her family and I would like to thank her on Robert’s behalf for all the support she gave him over the years, always being there for him.

As I have said, Robert has helped a lot of people indirectly over the years as he was a member of the Helping Hand Committee, Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund and the Carnival Committee and all these committees raise money for charity which in turn comes back to us in Purton. Robert, when he was younger, used to get up early and do a paper round. I wonder if he used to read the comics on his way round because he became interested in the Beano and collected these through his life. In fact, he was an avid collector of many things (a bit like me in my garage – never throw anything away!).

It is a rare person who gives and doesn’t count the cost to himself and takes precious moments of his time to try and improve the lives of others. Thank you Robert, you certainly helped to make Purton a nice place to live.

TONY PRICE

Mrs May Barnfield

May Barnfield has lived in Purton most of her life, first in New Road then at Reids Piece. May, as a young girl, went to Purton School, starting off in Miss Woodward’s class which was the first infants and she still remembered her first day at school in her yellow dress. As a point of interest, Miss Woodward lived over the railway line at the bottom end of the Common in the houses that I believe Hill’s had built, as Harold Hill and his wife lived in one. May carried on her schooling in Purton but, in her later days at school and after, she became a carer for her mum who died at the age of forty-one. It was a very sad time in the early days of her ninety four years as her mother had two other daughters after May but, sadly, they both died in childhood, so that was not a very good start in life for May.

Things changed for her because the man she was to marry was living next door. In fact they lived next door to each other for fourteen years before they got married. I expect May’s heart fluttered a few times over that period of time. May and the man next door – Harry Barnfield – started courting seriously but Harry was called up in 1939 to serve his country in the war. When Harry was home on leave in April 1941 they were married by Canon Willis at St Mary’s but there was no honeymoon as Harry was posted to North Africa two days after the wedding where he served

before moving on to Italy where he finished the remainder of his war years. I expect there were many agonising moments for May until Harry came home safely at the end of the war. However, May was doing her bit for the war effort, working in Garrards. No, it wouldn't have been on gramophones or frivolous things, it would have been on engine and instrument parts for planes, tanks, guns etc. I expect she used to catch the workman's train. I don't know what time it went during the war but it was twelve minutes past seven in my time. One thing, she didn't have far to go to catch the train.

However, the war finished and Harry came back home safe and sound and they set up home with Harry's parents. Carol, their daughter was born at New Road, then things changed and they got allocated a house – 28 Reids Piece – in 1947. This was during one of the worst winters on record, with branches snapping off trees through ice, even the grass was frozen solid. The workman's train didn't run for days – it was as bad as I have ever seen it. Several men walked to work in the railway works but it was a bit sickening for them when those of us who stayed home still got paid as well. You can imagine moving into a new house which has no heating on. Their pipes had burst and, where the water had come down the stairs, it was all frozen to solid ice. However, with spring coming and their positive natures they soon had a nice home together. They loved Reids Piece, especially in the spring with all the trees in blossom. I can remember Reids Piece being built as I lived in The Peak when it was just a cul-de-sac and, of course, we all went to St Mary's to school in those days.

You know what they say about a new house, well Geoff was born in 1949. May continued in her caring role, looking after her father until he died in 1977. Harry played cricket and May would have helped with the teas. Was it in the days when the highlight of the Cricket Club teas was Gardiner's lardies, then Godwins followed? They were never quite the same as the original recipe died with Mr Gardiner. My mouth waters at the thought of them. May was very hardworking and worked in Bradon Forest School kitchens. She enjoyed that job and their bonus was that she was a good cook and enjoyed trying out different dishes, but really her favourite hobby was gardening. She loved nothing better than getting out there pottering around and seeing the plants growing. It was quite the reverse from most homes as Harry did the flower garden and May used her expertise on the vegetables, and very successful she was too.

May was a member of the local Red Cross and was on their committee for fund raising for the local organisation. However an order came from HQ that all money raised had to be sent to headquarters. The people involved with the fund raising did not feel that this was right and resigned but the same group started the Helping Hand. I would assume that, had the Helping Hand still been running, money in lieu of flowers would have gone to them and this would have been only right. We shall certainly miss their contribution to village life here in Purton.

May and Harry retired but sadly could not do the things they would have planned because Harry had a serious stroke and May took up her caring duties again with love and devotion. This stroke left Harry wheelchair bound but, even when Harry went into the Cedars for respite, May would go and see him every day. When he

was home she nursed and cared for him all the time until he died in 1998.

What do I remember most about May? To me she had many qualities but what comes to mind straight away is her singing. When we used to have our Age Concern Christmas parties at Churchill House – quite a time ago now – Terry and Geraldine would provide the entertainment and they would get people up to sing and May would always sing one or two songs – beautiful it was. It was pleasing to learn that she joined a choir after moving to West Swindon and they would go out entertaining at Care Homes. In addition to her singing, she would also entertain with her Pam Ayres poems. What talent this lady had and what was nice, she was prepared to share it with others. Another thing about May, she was adventurous as she enjoyed holidays in France and Spain and, mind, she didn't start flying until 2007.

I am not a lover of the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful' but they had this at May's cremation and I thought how fitting it was for a person such as May. When you met her she was always happy, smiling and positive and also always very nicely turned out, it was an uplifting experience to see her. Goodbye May and thanks for the memories. I will always think of you with a smile. Could I thank Carol, Geoff and their families and friends for donations coming to Age Concern in lieu of flowers? Thank you.

TONY PRICE

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it via the contacts on page 4 of the Magazine.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P

Group for Patients



1. Online appointments

The detail of online appointments does not appear on the receptionists' booking screen, only that this space is unavailable for booking through the receptionist.

Could we also remind patients that online are proving very popular so the number of them has been increased. These appointments are usually available from Wednesday evenings (as opposed to Thursday morning for all other appointments). Recent audit has shown that there is almost always online availability within two working days.

Online appointments cannot be made for children.

2. Text messaging reminder service

The surgery operates a Text Messaging Reminder Service. To opt into this service to receive appointment reminders there is a form available from the surgery or alternatively it can be downloaded from the surgery website.

3. CQC Inspection

The Surgery has recently been inspected by CQC. Three members of G4P were also interviewed during the day by the inspectors. The full report will be available within the next two weeks on the practice website.

4. Orthopaedics evening 20 March

Our next information evening will be on Thursday 20 March in Purton Surgery when the subject will be Orthopaedics and our speakers will be Neil Orpen, Orthopaedic Consultant and Vincent Sejourant, an Osteopath. The evening will, as before, run from 7.30 to 9 pm. Although this is a free event tickets are required due to limited seating, obtainable from Purton Surgery, tel 01793 770207.

5. Follow us on Twitter

G4P now has its own Twitter feed, username *@PurtonSurgery*. However, this should not be used as a way of raising issues with the surgery, communication with G4P is through the surgery or by emailing groupforpatients@gmail.com.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary

Purton & District Probus Club

On 3 December 2013 the President's Lunch was held at the Lydiard Tregoz Conference Centre. Almost 70 guests – members, wives and friends enjoyed an excellent meal. Mr Fred Sharpe, President of Royal Wootton Bassett Probus Club was the guest speaker. Ian Mead, a Purton member, set out an exhibition of Photographs of features in and around Lydiard Park.



On 10 December Robert MacClachan gave us a talk – “Chernobyl – What really happened” the main theme being that the cause of the accident (1986), was “ignorant authority” overruling educated and technical advice. The greatest tragedy has been the contamination and the exodus of 400,000 mostly Belarusians into other societies which were fearful and reluctant to accommodate them.

On 14 January John Clark, one of our own members and a keen exponent of the electronic metal detector, gave a very interesting and pictorial presentation of Saxon and Roman treasures. Jewellery and coins found at one or two local sites were passed around for examination. The most significant detection of John and his team was a Saxon Burial near Brimble Hill at Wroughton of a warrior with spear, sword and other articles. Strangely, though local archaeologists were interested in the artefacts, no museum was interested in taking the bones.

Our second January meeting on the 28th was addressed by Bill King – “A Walk along the Thames Path.” The title hardly conveyed the wealth of information that Bill presented. A keen historian and industrial archaeologist, he explained the significance of the Thames and connecting waterways, including that of the Sapperton tunnel, as a primary means of transport during the age of canals. The Path covered was from the source near Kemble to the Windrush junction near Newbridge and Northmoor. We had a brief history of every bridge as far back as when the Thames separated Alfred and the Saxons from the Danelaw to the North, And who would believe that Cricklade has been able to maintain its status as an inland port! We look forward to the next section of the Thames Path.

Probus meets at 10 am every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the calendar month at the Red House lounge.

Future meetings: 25 February “Air Ops in Afghanistan”, 11 March “Why Butterflies”, 25 March “Royal Pride and Royal Guilt”.

BOB STEVENS

Church Floodlighting

With thanks to those who have sponsored floodlighting of St Mary's Church.



- 9 February The church was floodlit in loving memory of **Lilian Slade** on her birthday. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love Ron, Geoff, Linda, Lyn, Ted and family
- 10 February Happy 80th Birthday: St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate **Hector McLean's** 80th birthday.
- 22 February St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Ray Suddaby**, on the 18th anniversary of his death. Loved always by his wife Pat
- 5 March St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of my darling partner **Jeffrey Waite**, for the 2nd anniversary of his death. He was very much loved and is missed by Iris, Roslyne, Lesley and family: and also Jeff's family, Ann, Julia, Robert, Helen and Annette
- 7 March The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ray Herbert**: Dear husband and Dad. Sorely missed.

Floodlighting contact: [Sandra Horsnall](#)

If the lights don't work, for any reason, we offer apologies and, of course, another floodlit evening for free, or your money back.

These things happen occasionally and it is really disappointing for all concerned. We can only try our best.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 28 March from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Breast Cancer Care Charity Fashion Show

A fashion show where brand new clothes from the High Street are modelled and sold at bargain prices. Purchases can be taken home the same night!

At Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall

Monday 17 March 2014 - Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start

Tickets £5 each

Please contact Kirsty to order tickets.

Wise Words

The best most beautiful things in the world can't be seen or touched but felt in the heart.

Helen Keller

Further Adventures of Toby and Betsy-Ann

We, that is Toby and I, were told that we were going to Laon for another adventure. "Where is Laon?" I asked. Toby being clever said "it's in France between St Quentin and Reims, and it's a citadel town". "Blow me," I said, "what's that?" It is a medieval town on the top of a hill, with big walls, like a castle but bigger. Sounds like fun – when do we go? In May.

The days passed and we were prepared for Europe, special headlight thingies, triangles, first aid kits etc, fully packed and off we went to the ferry.

Oh I love the sea all that rolling and splashing. France came into sight very soon, we clipped the bits onto the headlamps, put extra mirrors on to help us see whilst driving on the wrong side of the road.

After a while Laon came into view. WOW, it's like Silbury Hill but a thousand times bigger, with a town on the top. We were then parked at a very nice motel



where we met a lot of other classic cars, because we were all going to a Cherished Car Meet.

One of the Triumph drivers got very drunk and we were really ashamed of him, this during the dinner meal time, how the French must have hated us for his utter rudeness. The Jaguars and their owners were very stuffy and didn't want to mix with us the lower classes, but this was the only sad part of our adventure.

The next day we went up to the old fortifications and was part of a parade of honour, where Toby was challenged to a race. This was strictly forbidden, so they had two very fast laps. Luckily no one was hurt.

Apparently this happens each year. Later in the day we went to the town square where everyone had a parking spot so they could show themselves off.

Lots of people said nice things about us, but like all good things they come to an end too rapidly. It was the last day and we should have headed for home, but my fifth gear had a bad moment and required a screwdriver, a hammer and a soldering iron. Toby had a soldering iron in his tool box; it was operated by gas, so my gear was soon fixed.

The return journey was uneventful. Home again, with lots of fun to remember on this adventure. Incidentally, quite by chance we met a "Morgan" during a ride in the French Countryside, his folks came from Purton Stoke, what fun. Oh I am getting tired and need a rest – I think I shall have a drop of oil for supper and get a good night's sleep. Good night everyone.

Love TOBY and BETSY-ANN

After 8



Home Entertainment – After 8 Style

The evening was entitled 'Christmas Sing Along plus Secret Santa'. This was a not-to-be-missed occasion. We duly arrived at Mary's house to the accompaniment of the Cricklade Town Band, who happened to be playing Christmas music, around the village that evening.

As in past years we operate a 'bring and share' food and drink system which provides an amazing array of goodies to eat and drink later. At this juncture we are only allowed a drink and have to sing for our supper. However, before we start the carol singing we must help decorate the Christmas tree (to immerse us fully into the Christmas spirit). We are exceedingly lucky in having an accomplished pianist in our mist. Our thanks to Marion, for tinkling the ivories, trying to keep us in tune and shouting **breathe** when our singing appeared to be flagging.

Having sung our best, the excitement is mounting; we are allowed to sample the Christmas fare which we had all provided. We are also permitted to rummage in Santa's sack for a present (no looking or trying to find the largest one!). Santa's presents are traditionally unwanted gifts you received during the previous year. We call it recycling! This year's presents ranged from cookbooks (cupcakes plus marmite recipes) to an evening bag, a bag and scarf set to a head massage implement.

The evening rounded off with a poem written by Diana, one of our members and the singing of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. Subsequent to this, the words to the Twelve Days of Christmas were found, so this became our final, final song of the evening (all were a little hoarse by now). A very enjoyable, convivial, pre-Christmas evening was had by all. Our grateful thanks to Mary for hosting the evening.

SANDRA HORSNALL

Annual Quiz

Our first meeting of the year was our annual quiz, traditionally held at Jan's house and this year was no exception.

After brief feedback from Barbara, followed by some discussions about the Purton WW1 commemoration ideas, thirteen of us pitted our wits and recollections of the previous year's news. Knotty questions, such as:

- Which country became the 28th member of the EU?
- Who is Mr J.M. Bergoglio?
- Who won best actor at the Academy Awards in 2013?

This caused us to scratch our heads due to this week's announcement of the current nominees.

Mostly working independently, a winner was found. It was me!

The next meeting will be "Eating Right for your Type" led by Janet at her house on 18 March.

MARION ANDREWS

(Answers: Croatia, The Pope, Daniel Day Lewis)

Late Christmas Meal

Our February meeting found us enjoying our late Christmas meal at the Bolingbroke Arms. Calories forgotten we consumed all sorts of goodies. A failed

attempt to photograph Eve's huge, colourful (and judging by the empty plate) tasty winter berry pavlova was probably just as well as it might have been too much to contemplate for Magazine readers!

HELEN DIXON

Our next meeting is on 18 March with 'What's the Point' roaming through history led by Eve at Barbara Gosden's. For more information contact [Avril](#) or any other After 8 member. We look forward to welcoming you.



In the March 2004 issue, an article from Ps & Qs looked closely at the term "sustainable" especially as used in planning documents and applications, usually as a prefix for some things that were not sustainable. These days we have learnt to be suspicious of terms such as sustainable transport, sustainable housing and sustainable waste management among other sustainable principles.

10 years ago five sites in the village and a further two still in the Parish had been put forward for development. However none were recommended by the Development Control Committee of the North Wiltshire District Council because enough brownfield sites were available to meet the required housing allocation determined by central government. Of those seven sites, planning has now been approved for 700 houses at Ridgeway Farm and 200 have been built at Moredon Bridge with another 50 on appeal. Within the village Widham Farm has been appealed twice – and lost twice – while other applications have been submitted or are expected.

The March 2004 magazine also included an introductory article about the new Priest in Charge Jane Haslam, her husband Mike and their then 3 children, who were planning to move into the village towards the end of that April. Jane is now the full time vicar at North Petherton in Somerset, and readers may have seen or heard her in BBC news reports about the flooding in her parishes.

On the sporting front, four junior members of Purton Cricket Club had been invited to attend coaching courses for selection to the North Wiltshire teams. Since then, one of those juniors, Craig Miles, has gone on to play professionally and is contracted with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

10 years ago the "recent rain" had increased the width of the River Key flowing under the aqueduct from 2 feet to more than 30 feet wide – sadly something else that appears not to have changed much recently.

Something to Think About

Two things are infinite - the universe and human stupidity. I'm not sure about the universe.

Albert Einstein

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



After a brief AGM when the previous office holders and committee were confirmed for this year, members enjoyed an entertaining and informative talk from Norman Jeffery on the subject of 'The National Gardens Scheme – Gardens of Gloucestershire'.

Norman began by providing the background to the formation of the scheme. In the 1920s William Rathbone, a successful business man, hired a nurse to care for his sick wife. Realising that not everyone was in the position to afford a nurse in such circumstances, and following the death of his wife, he formed and funded a group of nurses for the purpose. The district nurses that we know today.

By 1927 the scheme had grown and now relied upon donated income in order to carry out its work in supporting community nurses. It was governed by the Queen's Nursing Institute and at a meeting of the institute, Mrs Elsie Wagg came up with the novel idea to raise funds by opening private gardens to the public for a 'shilling a head'. In the first year 609 gardens raised over £8000 and thus the National Gardens Scheme was born.

By 1931 over 1000 private gardens were open under the scheme and the magazine Country Life produced a handbook listing them all. This became known as 'The Yellow Book' because of its bright cover – the book we still recognise today.

The scheme continued as a fund raising operation until 1980 when The National Gardens Scheme Charitable Trust was established as an independent charity. The four main beneficiary charities are Macmillan Cancer Relief, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and Crossroads Caring for Carers. In the years 2011 and 2012 Macmillan and Marie Curie each received a donation of £550,000 from a total of £2.6 million raised under the scheme – a scheme that was initially formed to support district nurses was now supporting nursing organisations.

With the accompaniment of a beautiful slide show, Norman directed the remainder of his talk towards raising our awareness of the number of private gardens open under the scheme that lie just a 'stone's throw' from our doorstep in many cases.

These include among many others:

Stowell Park, near Northleach, is a large country house and estate.

Trench Hall, Painswick, set in countryside and one of the scheme's best supporters, opening to the public more often than any other.

Abbotswood, situated a mile from Stow-on-the-Wold, opens in the spring and the autumn. It boasts beautiful spring colour and has a natural water feature and 'good cakes' – always an added bonus!

The **Coach House** and **Ampney Brook House** both situated in Ampney Crucis. Norman feels that a visit to both gardens would form a perfect evening outing for a gardening club such as our own.

Highnam Court is the biggest house and garden in Gloucestershire to open under the scheme. It opens on the first Sunday of each month from May-September and boasts an orangery, wisteria walk, box garden and Monet style bridge. Wooden sculptures abound – herons, owls, and bears, flying salmon and an eagle by the lake.

Manor Wood in Cirencester on the Old Cheltenham Road, holds the national collection of rambling roses. This is another garden Norman feels worthy of an

organised outing for a gardening club.

Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill near Moreton-in-the-Marsh, has a beautiful box garden and large herbaceous borders.

Probably the most well-known in the area is the garden designed by Rosemary Very at **Barnsley House**, near Cirencester, featuring the world famous knot garden.

Norman listed gaining ideas for garden design and raising valuable funds for worthy causes as two of the main reasons why we should consider visiting gardens under the scheme.

Leon Slee kindly proposed the vote of thanks for a most enjoyable talk that together with the beautiful photos has probably inspired us all to pick up 'the yellow book' to plan a day out.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25 March at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall when Jenny Bailey will be joining us to speak on the subject 'Container Planting for Year Round Interest'.

Our competition will be '5 Daffodils'.

Visitors and new members can be assured of a warm welcome.

LINDA ROBERTS (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Purton Open Gardens 2014

An enthusiastic group of participants have agreed to open their gardens for the enjoyment of others during the weekend of 5-6 July. However, it would be beneficial to refresh the presentations with new or returning participants. It is not a competition, there are no prizes and the profit is distributed to local charities. If you are interested, or know someone/neighbours who might be, there is an information guide available. Please contact:

- Nick Yerbury the.yerburys@btinternet.com
- Brigitte Wilkinson brigitte.wilkinson@virgin.net

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with preparation of snack lunches at the Silver Threads Hall.

Carnival News

To kick off this year's carnival we have some Pre-Carnival Events



- Pre-Carnival Bingo 27 March Silver Threads Hall 7.30 pm
- Pre-Carnival Golf 1 June
Cricklade Hotel & Country Club
10 am Start, Teams of 3, £15.00 per person
Contact Kevin on 07768 456989 or Kevin@PurtonCarnival.co.uk for an entry form.

If there is an event you would like to see at the carnival or throughout the year please let us know and we will do our best to make it happen

Carnival Week is 21 - 28 June: Procession 28 June so please keep this day free This year's theme is Christmas so many of our events will have a Christmas twist like our Festive Fun Run on 22 June. We invite the runners to dress as Santa

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton Diary - March 2014

1	Sa	1.00pm 7.30pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at Village Hall, viewing from noon <i>to 11.30pm</i> : World Challenge Disco at Village Hall
2	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Musical afternoon
5	W	11.45am 7.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
6	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Live & Let Live
8	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (in aid of Silver Threads)
9	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
10	M	7.30pm	Commonwealth Day Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
11	Tu	10.00am 11.00am 7.30pm	Purton Probus at the Red House Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
12	W	11.45am 2.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at the Methodist Church Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Val Walker
13	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
14	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
16	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
17	M	7.30pm	Charity Fashion Show, Memorial Hall, RW/Bassett
18	Tu	2.00pm 7.45pm 8.00pm	Silver Threads Club Royal British Legion at The Red House <i>After 8: What's the Point?</i> led by Eve at Barbara Gosden's
19	W	11.45am 2.00pm 7.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at the Methodist Church Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: AGM
20	Th	7.30pm	Spring Equinox Orthopaedics talk at Purton Surgery
22	Sa	5.00pm 7.00pm	<i>to 9pm</i> : World Challenge Race Night at Village Hall Murder Mystery Evening, Silver Threads Hall
23	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church

		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church
25	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Jenny Bailey - <i>Container Gardening</i>
26	W	11.45am	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at the Methodist Church
27	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: AGM followed by Paul Booy - <i>Lead up to WW1</i>
		7.30pm	Pre-Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
28	F	3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars
29	Sa	7.30pm	Swindon Choral Soc, <i>Dream of Gerontius</i> , Marlborough College

30 Su **Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward**
Mothering Sunday

		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Communion service & parade at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
31	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall

April

2	W	10.00am	Age Concern mystery tour
5	Sa	1.30pm	to 4pm: Easter Fayre at Village Hall

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm</i> : Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

● 1 March ● 8 March ○ 18 March ● 24 March
 ● 30 March

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
 Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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Christian Aid Week



Sunday 11 May – Saturday 17 May

We are already making exciting plans for Christian Aid Week in Purton and beyond! We would love to have some new volunteers – as they say 'many hands make light work!'.

- If you could bake a cake or knit Teddy Bear clothes and/or parachute harnesses ...
- If you could start your keep fit campaign by delivering and collecting envelopes in a street near you ...
- If you could be sponsored for doing a freefall abseil or sponsor some other brave soul or would prefer to stay firmly on the ground and help in some other way ... interested and intrigued? Well read on!

On Sunday 11 May there will be a Christian Aid Service at Purton Methodist Church at 10.30 am. There will also be a Christian Aid Service at Cricklade United Church at 10.30 am, followed by a procession to St Sampson's for the Freefall Abseiling which will take place throughout the day. There will be a Teddy Bear Parachute Drop for very brave bears (if you don't have a bear you can adopt a homeless bear) and their owners can enjoy a barbecue, teas and lots of fun inside and around the church.

... Jump for Justice: Jump for Christian Aid - Freefall Abseil

We are looking for adventurous people who will pay a £15 registration and agree to find at least £200 of sponsorship for Christian Aid, in return you can climb the 7 flights of stairs to the top of the tower of St Sampson's at Cricklade and abseil down into the middle of the church! We feel sure that there are many of you who would like the challenge or you 'may know a man (or woman) who can'! If you are ready to take up the challenge and you need help to think of ways to raise sponsorship we will help you.

To register your interest in doing an abseil please call Katrine Musgrave on 01454 415923 or email kmusgrave@christian-aid.org



... Calling all Teddy Bear Owners

Whilst the humans are abseiling inside the church we are organising a Teddy Bear Parachute Experience outside! We are looking for very brave, intrepid bears who will bring their owners along and pay £1 for the drop. Harnesses and clothing will be available. If you don't have a bear we will have some homeless Teddies bears available for adoption. Every Teddy completing a Parachute Jump will receive a certificate. Please remember this very important date and bring along your Teddy, ready for action.



continued ...

... Other events

We will be having a **Curry Night** and possibly a **Film Night**. There will be our usual **Quiz** available for sale. On Saturday 17 May we will have our **Cake and Plant Stall** at the Top Shops (Pavenhill Parade) along with freshly prepared bacon butties – yum!

If you have some spare time, or indeed are a VERY busy person, and find that you can give an hour or more during this special week of Christian Aid activities then we guarantee you plenty of action, fun and friendship.

There will be more details in the April Magazine but if you want to help or want more information please ring Mary (770505); Sandra (770157); or Libbie (771018).



Purton Guide Dogs

Our January Jumble was a success – my thanks to the staunch Committee and our helpers. Total raised so far from the goods donated is £145.10, added to which Barbara Herron had her stall just inside the door. She supplies all the items, and donates all the proceeds to us, and this time it was £78.20. What a lovely lady. That makes £223.30 in total, which I think you will agree makes a very good start for 2014.



Many thanks for everybody's continued support,

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Purton & the Great War

Many thanks for everyone who attended my talk on 23 January. If any groups or organisations who are holding events commemorating the Great War in Purton want any local details, please, please ask. Having researched the Village links to the Great War period (both Military and civilian) since 2007, I have a large amount of material available. People just need to ask and I will help as much as I can ... talking is free with me.



I intend to hold some Walk & Talk events at St Mary's Church, Purton in August if there is an interest (details to follow) and I will soon be in contact with the Museum with the intention of holding specific a Great War talk where I can give advice on researching Military history (again if there is interest shown for such an event).

I am also involved with "Swindon in the Great War", a group established to promote local history regarding all aspects of the Great War, please visit the web site for details of events around the Swindon area swindoninthegreatwar.wordpress.com

My own web site will be updated to show details of events that I will be holding; please visit www.purton1418.co.uk for details.

BOB LLOYD

A View on Life

An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.

Henry Ford

Flood Prayer

Lord of Creation,
We are tested, almost beyond endurance,
by the rising waters and the rain of tears.
Amidst the fear-full floods,
as homes and farms are submerged and villages deserted,
be with us;
in stewardship of our land;
in nurture for our community;
in lament for all that is lost.
Bless us we pray,
in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

This prayer was written by Revd Mike Haslam, husband of our former Vicar, Jane Haslam. Jane is now Vicar of North Petherton which is in the Somerset Levels. She was on the radio and television in February, expressing her distress at the situation that many of her parishioners were suffering.

Mike writes:

I wrote this prayer late one evening as the rain fell; and I hoped to try to express some of the emotions, the fear, anger, grief and bewilderment that I had heard from those on the Levels; and especially those in Moorland and Fordgate who are closest to us.

Coffee & Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits.

BOB TINSON

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell and Bagbury Lane*.

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

We Record ...

Funeral:

5 February We give thanks for the life of Hanae Kawamura

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on [page 4](#). We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...



Faith, Life and Lent

This Lent, Purton joins with the Churches of Cricklade and Upper Thames to hear a series of talks by a range of speakers on how their Faith engages with their lives and work. Each one is a person who has contributed towards the interests of the nation as well as that of their own communities.

5 March – Linvoy Primus

Premier League footballer with Portsmouth FC. Earlier with Reading and Charlton Athletic. Winner of PFA Fan's player of the Year. Services resulted in dedication of 'The Linvoy Primus Community Stand' at Fratton Park. Joint founder of 'Faith and Football'

12 March – Patrick Hawes

Classical Composer. Nominated for Classic Brit Award. Voted by Classic FM listeners as the fastest ever entry into the stations Hall of Fame. Commissioned by Prince Charles to write Highgrove Suite for his 60th birthday celebrations. Recorded composition Fair Albion: Visions of England with Julian Lloyd Webber – Classic FM CD of the week.

19 March – Rosemary Conley – Diet and fitness Leader

Forty years experience in helping the nation keep healthy and get fitter. Author of 35 best selling books. Presenter of 31 fitness DVDs. Widely respected internationally and locally. First woman to be offered Freedom of her home city of Leicester. Deputy Lieutenant of the County. Works for STEPS – Educational Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy

26 March – Sir Mark Hedley

Retired High Court Judge. Specializing in family and personal issues. Leading pronouncements made on Baby Charlotte, and various high profile abortion, life support system, and birth-control cases.

31 March – Brigadier Ian Dobbie

Served in The Gulf and in Northern Ireland. Instructor at Sandhurst and RAF Staff College. General Secretary of umbrella organisation of eight charities serving the Armed Forces. Third generation of Military Family. Grandfather Governor of Malta during the WW2 siege and awarded George Cross.

10 April – Baroness Brinton

Part of team that persuaded government to change the law on stalking. Served on enquiry into extent to which religious freedom is respected in Britain and member of all party parliamentary group monitoring worldwide religious persecution.

Entry to all by Free Ticket with Purton group – travelling together from Purton Village Hall – available from David Martin 770171. All presentations by kind invitation in the attractive surroundings of Prior Park School.

Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday from 5 March to 9 April inclusive.

11.45 - 1.00 pm at Purton Methodist Church.

All proceeds to Tear Fund and Water Aid.

First World War Centenary

Wiltshire's Great War Community Event

On Monday 20 January thirty-five people gathered at the Red House, by kind permission of the Steward, to discuss the best way to progress Purton's plans for commemorating the start of WW1 next summer.



Proceedings opened with the award winning film "Letters from a Small Town" concerning individual stories from the Chippenham area. The DVD was loaned to us by the man responsible for making the film, Richard Broadhead of Hilmarton, who is a well known WW1 historian. The film we saw is part of a longer version that has been shown at festivals in Houston, Cannes, London and Edinburgh. Richard spent two months writing the script which is based on authenticated wartime letters and his comment was, "It'll make you think. It is more about the people than the War. A whole generation grew up without fathers. It was the biggest loss of life in Wiltshire since the Plague. It's real things that actually happened".

An interesting display of rare colour photographs of war scenes had been loaned to us by the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. Tim Burge, the Museums Officer, will be submitting an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to finance a project entitled "Wiltshire at War: Community Stories". This will consist of a series of themed exhibitions based on information gathered from communities across Wiltshire. They will tour museums and other venues from November 2014 - 2018. There will be an accompanying web site, a version for schools, book displays and talks in libraries. These events are intended to enhance our own work, leading to an exchange of ideas and co-operation with other authorities.

"Swindon in the Great War" will commemorate the town's role from 1914 to 1918. The organizers, led by Dr Mike Pringle, are very keen to work with the surrounding villages. Their plans include films, music, a vintage fair, dancing, re-enactments, displays by local children and art exhibitions. Some of these happenings will be performed in the town centre and linked with the Forces.

All of this means that we can be part of a scheme beyond Purton itself. Our plans will be circulated and publicised, if we so wish, and in return we can support what fires our interest in Swindon and other parts of the county. The Purton Historical Society would like to be made aware of the efforts of groups and individuals, to keep a diary so that events do not clash and to assist with research. Following their eagerly anticipated pantomime, PADS will continue to create an original, major production to coincide with the outbreak of the war. Material is being assembled in the Museum. Please contact Jan Walker, the Curator, if you have any family memorabilia you are prepared to loan, or have copied, for the special displays.

Over the next few weeks we should be pleased to hear from organizations in the village regarding their plans. We want to know what life was really like for all the people of Purton during WW1.

[JEAN BELT](#)

Cenotaph Floodlighting

The lights were on at the cenotaph on Wednesday 12 February in memory of Frank Glass, former employee of Princess Margaret's Hospital.

Great War Project

Part 8. Libya & The Balkan Wars (1912-13)

Aristotle (384 - 322 BC) said that “nature abhors a vacuum” and a power vacuum was certainly around in the Balkans in the early years of the 20th century. The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) was in retreat from its European eyalats (provinces) which had been under occupation for 400 or so years. The people of the Balkans were sensing freedom at last but still trying to work out who they were: Romanians, Bulgars, Greeks, Croats, Serbs, Kosovars, Albanians ... Orthodox Christians, Catholics, Muslims. And where did they live? The old Turkish eyalat boundaries had little to do with population movements over several centuries.

Before all this could come to a head, Italy decided it was time to show her hand. As far back as the Congress of Berlin (1878) when Britain took over Cyprus and France took Morocco from the Ottomans, Italy had been given assurances that it would have a free hand to intervene in Libya. On 29 September 1912, in a 20-day war (the Italo-Turkish War), Italy invaded and captured the Turkish provinces of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan, setting up effective control there. Italy also took control of the Turkish Dodecanese islands of the Aegean including Rhodes, Kos and Samos.

It was a comparatively minor war but showed the increasing weakness of the Ottoman Empire. It also saw the first use in warfare of aeroplane reconnaissance and the first bomb dropped by an aeroplane. Powered flight was a young technology having been pioneered barely 9 years before by the Wright brothers in 1903. Coincidentally, Wilbur Wright died in May 1912 so would not have seen this military innovation of the brothers' technology.

Despite Turkey's defeat, a young officer Mustafa Kemal distinguished himself at the battle of Tobruk. We shall meet him again under the name Kemal Atatürk.

Spurred on by the evidence of Ottoman weakness, and while the Italo-Turkish War was still in progress (October 1912), Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro allied to gain final independence from Turkey (the 1st Balkan War). The Ottoman Empire mobilised three armies against the Bulgarians, the Greeks and the Serbs. Montenegro declared war on 8 October moving towards Novi Pazar, a strip separating them from Serbia – which we first met in the September 2013 issue. The other allies joined in a week later. Bulgaria reached the outskirts of Istanbul and Gallipoli, and captured western Thrace and eastern Macedonia. Serbia took Skopje, Monastir, modern-day Albania and Kosovo to link with the forces of Montenegro. Greece attacked through Macedonia and captured Thessaloniki (Salonika), linking with the Serbs to the northwest and the Bulgarians in the east. The Ottoman fleet was twice defeated by the Greek Navy.

In January 1913, the Ottoman Empire was prepared to concede defeat but, after a successful internal coup by young army officers, decided to continue the war. However the new Balkan countries won and the war ended with the Treaty of London (1913). Turkey ceded all possessions in Europe to the Balkan allies west of a line from Enos on the Aegean Sea to Midia on the Black Sea, with the exception of Albania, while the

Great Powers began to draw the lines of a new Albanian state. Turkish sovereignty over Crete was withdrawn and it was united with Greece. The future of the Aegean islands which Greece occupied were left to the Great Powers to adjudicate.

The Balkans was still in uproar. In the lead-up to the 1st Balkan War, Serbia had promised Bulgaria most of Macedonia, but then Serbia and Greece said they would keep a large part of it. The king of Bulgaria, now calling himself 'tsar' Ferdinand I, invaded his former allies, Serbia and Greece, in June 1913 without consulting the his own government and without any official declaration of war (the 2nd Balkan War). Bulgaria attacked the Serbian army at the Bregalnica river and then the Greek army in Nigrita. The Serbian army resisted the sudden night attack, while most of them did not even know who they were fighting, as Bulgarian camps were located next to Serbs and were considered allies. Montenegro's forces were just a few miles away and also rushed to the battle. The Bulgarian attack was halted.

The Greek army made a tactical retreat for two days while Thessaloniki was cleared of a Bulgarian regiment still there from the first war and then counter-attacked, defeating the Bulgarians at Kilkis-Lahanas (Kukush), destroying the town and expelling most of its Bulgarian population. The Greek army destroyed 161 Bulgarian villages and massacred thousands of inhabitants while the Bulgarians did the same at Nigrita, Serres, Demir Hisar and Doxato. The Greek army then occupied western Thrace and advanced north into Bulgaria towards the capital, Sofia.

But by 30 July the Greek army was outnumbered by Bulgarian counter-attacks and King Constantine of Greece realised that his army could no longer continue the war. He agreed to a Bulgarian request for armistice.

As it happened, Romania had raised an army and declared war on Bulgaria on 10 July since Bulgaria had not made good its strategic promises to Romania after the 1st Balkan War. The Romanian forces had reached the outskirts of Sofia by the time Greece accepted the Bulgarian armistice proposal.

The Ottomans now decided to intervene and, finding no opposition, recovered eastern Thrace including Adrianople, regaining an area in Europe which was only slightly larger than the present-day European territory of the Republic of Turkey. The war was ended by the Treaty of Bucharest (1913).

Overall, not a lot was achieved on any side during the second war. But a lot of death, population displacement, fear and resentment was created in an area already inflamed and a key part of the international powder keg.

RICK DIXON

Maps: 1. Boundaries before the First Balkan War



2. After the Second Balkan War



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Purton Historical Society



Purton and the Great War

On 23 January, Bob Lloyd gave a very interesting and informative talk entitled 'Purton and the Great War'. Bob has been researching records for 7 years and has extensive knowledge of the subject. To date, there are 526 men named on Bob's research list. The list covers Parish residents, men born in the Parish and moved away, men who worked in the Parish and men with relatives in the Parish. There was a Purton presence in all the major theatres of the war.

There are 55 names of men who died listed on the Purton War Memorial and a further 39 men with links to Purton died but are not recorded on the memorial. 16 men were recorded as Prisoners of War. 3 over aged men and 16 boys, confirmed as underage, were included. The 'Golden Chapter' which is the record book kept in St Mary's Church lists the 55 names on the War Memorial and a further 174 names of survivors. Bob pointed out that entries for the War Memorial and Golden Chapter were paid for and will not cover all outcomes for all men involved.

Photographs gave a very poignant reminder of the youth of some of the recruits many of whom never returned. The recruitment of so many young men had an immense effect on society and particularly on the role of women in society, both during and after the war.

The talk also covered the 'Remount Depot' which was situated at Manor Hill in Purton during the war. The purpose of the depot was to 'break in' difficult horses and mules so that they could work in the various arenas of the war. Horses arrived in Purton by train from all areas of the country and came complete with a label stating temperament. Examples of records were shown and 'vicious biter' appeared frequently!

Photographs donated to Purton Museum

The photograph (*right*) is of the working party from Purton Historical Society sorting the donation of 3,000 photographs taken by the late Roy A'Court. The Society has been awarded a grant from the Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett Board to provide the archive materials to store this collection.



From left: Miriam Saunders, Jenny Barnes, Jan Walker. (Missing from photograph are Brenda Hanks, Kath Fuller and Sheila Price)

Thursday 27 March at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall – Annual General Meeting
Following the AGM, Paul Booy will talk on 'The Coming of World War 1'. Paul says: 'One hundred years ago Europe plunged itself into a catastrophic war. How this war came about is fascinating and only believable because it is true. It would bring about the end of Empires, the death of monarchies and rise of vicious dictatorships that made the old Europe look quite benign.'

New members and visitors are always welcome.

TONY & JAN NEATE
tjneate57@gmail.com

Purton Museum Opening Hours

From Saturday 1 March our Saturday opening will resume from 10 am to 1pm. Purton Age Concern will have on display a selection of photographs and memorabilia, to celebrate the date of their 50 year anniversary. This exhibition will continue until the end of April.

We will resume our Wednesday opening on 16 April, 2014 from 2 pm until 5 pm.

Purton Guide Dogs will follow on from Age Concern with a display during the months of May and June. The Museum will then be concerned with preparations for the exhibition to commemorate the start of World War 1.

JAN WALKER, Curator

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Safety (Part 3)

Litter

Litter, of course, is at the same time an easy and difficult problem to resolve. It is easy because it is an anti-social habit and so it should be unacceptable to litter, and it is difficult because there are serial offenders and there are few meaningful ways to encourage behavioural change. Recall this; *BBC News (London) 18 July 2008*

– Mob attacks officers over litter

“...Two police officers were attacked by a mob in south London when they asked a 15-year-old girl to pick up some litter she dropped. Metropolitan Police said one of the officers suffered injuries including a bite wound in the attack. Up to 30 people attacked the officers when the girl refused to pick up the litter and became aggressive. Police Inspector Simon Ellingham said the girl initially picked up the litter when asked, but immediately dropped it again sparking a confrontation leading to the attack ...”



There have been countless clean-up days, and special initiatives such as *Pride in Purton* – it is largely wasted effort. It tidies the place up but days later it is back to where it was

Of course, one of the reasons for general untidiness is when front gardens appear to be used as scrap yards. Many neighbours complain about the state of their neighbours' properties especially when appearing to be used as a dump.

Dog Fouling

Apart from the inconvenience of it sticking to one's shoe and the smell that lingers, there are other concerns of pavement users. Dog fouling contains high levels of bacteria which can be spread (via flies, pets' feet or footwear) to surfaces that are used. If children step in it on the way to school then potentially the school corridors and where children play will be tainted.





Dog fouling contains more nasty bacteria per gram than any other animal (human, cat, wild animals) and ten times more than that of a cow (for those who think it alright NOT to pick up when using rights of way across fields). There are also high levels of nutrients which, if washed into water courses; ditches, streams, rivers, and so on cause unsightly and harmful algal growth, plus the bacteria could cause

sickness to anyone paddling or playing in that water. A good general rule is to ensure that all dogs, cats and other cuddly pets are regularly wormed, and to have a good hygiene programme if pet or other animals are handled; hands should be washed.

Right: putting dog fouling in a plastic bag and leaving the bag does not constitute cleaning it up.

For some time Purton Parish Council has been trying to get the message across that dog fouling must be cleared up by dog owners otherwise the parish council could employ someone who will clear up at a cost to all parish households.



Legislation is in place (*Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005*) with Dog Control Orders, and Wiltshire Council is in the process of updating the Dog Control Orders across Wiltshire. The penalty for committing an offence contained within a Dog Control Order is a maximum fine – currently £1,000, or a fixed penalty – in Wiltshire this is £75 (reduced to £50 if payment is made within ten days). Who can implement legislation? Wiltshire Council has two dog wardens to cover the whole county however parish councils are able to appoint people to issue Fixed Penalty Notices and many across the country have done so – local people dealing with a local issue.

Where do you have to pick up? **Everywhere that the public has access:** public highways, pavements, parks and **fields with public footpaths**. There are exemptions: police dogs, working dogs, registered blind people, deaf people and for other people with disabilities who make use of trained assistance dogs. Where should you dispose of the fouling? Wrap and tie in small plastic bags and put into dog bins, litter bins or take home and put in general rubbish, or burn it.

The *Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan* called for a far more radical approach to littering and dog fouling.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com and there is a hard copy in Purton Library. If you want to find out the latest on potential housing developments at Widham Farm, Restrop Road, and behind Jewel's Ash, then simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and subscribe to my email alerts.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

PURTON PLACARD

Groups are invited to submit to the Editor details of forthcoming events in, for and on behalf of our community.

Purton Age Concern **ANNUAL AUCTION**

at the Village Hall
on Saturday 1 March
Items for sale can be brought
to the Hall from 9.30 am to 11.30 am
Viewing from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Sale starts at 1 pm.

AUCTIONEER

Mr Roderick Wightman

Purton Age Concern **MYSTERY TOUR**

Wednesday 2 April
10 am start
Cost £13.00 including lunch
Come and join us for
a tour of the countryside
and a delicious lunch
among friends

Brody Anderson &
Georgia Clifford
present

World Challenge Disco

Norway 2014
at Purton Village Hall
Saturday 1 March, 7.30 - 11.30 pm
Bar & Nibbles

£6 entry : Tickets from
Julie Clifford 770168

Tracy Anderson 771182



World Challenge

Pop Quiz

Norway 2014
at Purton Village Hall
Friday 25 April, 7.30pm
£6 per person (includes hot supper)
Max 6 per team
For tickets and info contact
Tracy 771182 or Julie 770168

World Challenge **Family Race Night**

Saturday 22 March
at the Village Hall

5 - 9 pm

Ticket prices to include Supper
£4 Adults : £2 under 12s
Call Dee on 771435, or
Lorraine on 772357

Group for Patients
Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Talk on

Orthopaedics

Thursday 20 March
7.30 - 9 pm at Purton Surgery

Speakers:

**Neil Orpen - Orthopaedic
Consultant**

Vincent Sejournant - Osteopath

Although this is a free event,
tickets are required due to limited
seating.

Please contact Purton Surgery,
tel 01793 770207, for tickets

Purton Silver Threads
Jumble Sale
Saturday 8 March
2 pm
Silver Threads Hall
Admission Free
Raffle & Refreshments
and lots of bargains

Fund Raising
Easter Fayre
Purton Village Hall
Saturday, 5 April 2014 at 1.30 - 4 pm
Family fun event with children's activities
Crafts, spring bulbs, cakes, Easter eggs and bunnies
Refreshments plus a Grand Raffle and much more
Come along and join in the fun!
All proceeds to support Pregnancy Choices, Swindon

Breast Cancer Care
Charity Fashion Show
Purchases can be taken home the
same night!
At Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall
Monday 17 March 2014
Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start
Tickets £5 each
Tickets: call Kirsty on 770094

St Mary's Church
will be holding a
Murder Mystery Evening
on **Saturday 22 March**
in conjunction with **PADS**
in **Silver Threads Hall** 7 pm
Tickets £12.50
to include a two-course meal
Bar
Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970,
Val 771201, Jane 772422

PURTON POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ HOSPITAL STAY

I wish to thank everyone most sincerely for all the lovely cards, messages and offers of help that I have received during my stay in hospital. This has helped to keep my spirits up and, although I am still not mobile and it will be some time before you see me on the tennis court (ho, ho!), I am pleased to be back home in Purton and settling into a new routine with a good team of carers.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gregory

■ GET WELL THANKS

Lucy Webb wishes to thank the members of the Purton Silver Threads and friends for all the cards and Get Well messages received following her accident before Christmas.

I am feeling much better and hopefully will be on the road to a complete recovery.

Thanks again,
Lucy Webb



Ex-Student Returns to Inspire Students

On 15 January, successful ex-student Daniel Granville visited the school to hold a question and answer session for Year 10 and 11 students on university life.

Daniel left Bradon Forest in 2011 and then went on to study A-Level's in Maths (B), Economics (A*), German (B) and World Development (A) at Cirencester College.

Daniel said: *"My time at Bradon Forest was excellent and the staff were all really supportive and encouraged me to reach my potential as a student. One day I will be Prime Minister!"*

Daniel has now gone on to read Finance and Economics at St Andrews College, from where numerous MP's and MSP's graduated, as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, so future Prime Minister could definitely be on the cards!



Our students quizzed Daniel on topics ranging from settling in, student life and halls accommodation to how often and how long lectures are, extra-curricular activities and what to put on application forms!

Daniel advised: *"Don't do extra-curricular activities and projects for the sole purpose of trying to impress people with your Personal Statement, they will see*

right through it! If you pick hobbies that you are genuinely interested in then you will be able to enthuse about them at interview, which is much more appealing. Pick a subject to study that you enjoy. If you are passionate about a topic then it will hold your interest and you will be more likely to succeed."

Daniel parted with a top tip: *"Work out how much each lecture costs in terms of university fees and you'll think twice about skipping class!"* Spoken like a true Economics student!



Showing next at the Bradon Forest Theatre:

A tumbleweed silently rolls across the dusty stage ... the clink clink clink of spurs echoes throughout the theatre ... the saloon door opens with a long, drawn-out creak ... the piano player hits a bum note and comes to a stop ... a short, dark stranger lifts the rim of his hat and shoots a steely stare out to the audience ... Welcome ... to Kidneystone ...

This new show, the biggest yet from award winning internationally touring troupe of clowns Le Navet Bete, promises to take audiences on an interactive, fast-paced

journey across the Wild West as the town of Kidneystone is threatened by outlaw and all-round bad guy Loco Pedro, who is secretly in cahoots with the Mayor to rob the town's train of all its gold.

Showing at the Bradon Forest Theatre – all are welcome!

Friday 2 May, 7.30pm

Tickets: £6 students, £7 adults – Box Office: 01793 773981.

A MORRISON, Headteacher

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



The meeting of 15 January was a busy one but made easier with a sheet of forthcoming events handed to each member. There is so much to enjoy in Wiltshire! However, the first event to raise a cheer that night was the entry of our hard-working member, Gladys Legg, who had been very poorly but now made the effort to join us again, smiling and looking her old self. Happiness all round!

A reminder – if, like me, you were daft enough to turn up at that meeting with insufficient cash and no cheque book – we have to pay our annual sub (£34.70) immediately! This will enable us to consider volunteering for the new Committee in time for the next meeting, the AGM which will be on 19 March. We have been so lucky in the past with super Presidents and Committees, and the 2014 AGM will have a fine time in trying to compete with those earlier years. Come and share your ideas! A Programme Questionnaire is also being circulated, asking for suggestions for topics from speakers, and also for Outings in the coming year.

Our speaker on 15 January was Jane Flippance, who had filled a table with examples of her handiwork, with wood and particularly with glass. The colours were lovely and her explanations and demonstration were excellent. We learnt many tips and could see that it was possible to enjoy this as a productive hobby.

We held our popular Soup and Sweet lunch on Monday, 3 February, at the Silver Threads Hall, raising nearly £200. Not only a lovely meal but a jolly social occasion, too.

The Cookery Book is selling – yes, like hot cakes! – and raised £402 so far. Now, wouldn't one make a good Easter gift?

And talking of cakes, the competition for 19 March is a decorated cup cake. I foresee a great social time after they are judged!

CONSTANCE REED

WI Quiz

A big thank-you to everyone who bought a quiz sheet and well done to those who decided to send theirs in! The compilers wish to apologise for failing to put a couple of the given words in full and thanks to those who pointed out our mistake. It was a tough quiz this year but a lot of you enjoyed the challenge – number 38 C-BP (Cracker-barrel philosophy) was the only question nobody managed to answer. Thank you to our winner Julia Cook who asked us to donate her winnings to charity – a cheque for £20 has winged its way to the Prospect Hospice.

HELEN DIXON

News from the Cricklade Band

Traditionally, we fund our rehearsal facilities and considerable insurance costs from the money we raise and we also donate a sizeable chunk to a worthy cause. Prospect Foundation is the recipient of 2013's donation; Prospect do a magnificent job of providing end-of-life care and family support which inevitably will touch all of us in some way.

The band's event list for the year is filling up and sees us returning to Bath, Cheltenham, Chippenham, Cirencester and Swindon bandstands. We're also waiting for confirmation of other venues, Weston-super-Mare and Bristol being a couple. We also have our usual listing of local community events.

BandAcademy continues apace with our student youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in several community events of their own and also joining the Performance Band in concerts. If you have an unfulfilled ambition to learn to play an instrument then we would be pleased to see you. Just call into The Club at Cricklade on Monday or Thursday evenings and say hello.

If learning to play wouldn't quite suit you we're specially looking for some new recruits to our Crew this year. Have a look at the website thecrickladeband.co.uk or check out Facebook for all the information you might need.

Just a couple of diary dates to finish:

- Saturday 29 March – Spring Table-Top Sale, The Club at Cricklade, 11 am to 1 pm with setting-up from 10 am. To book your table please call Val on 01793 750516.
- Sunday 30 March – Spring Forward concert, again at the Club, 7.30 pm, watch out for box office details on the posters!

MANDY ROBERTS, Secretary

Swindon Choral Society - Dream of Gerontius

Swindon Choral Society in association with The Marlborough Brandt Group, will be performing Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* on 29 March in Marlborough College Chapel.



The performance will be conducted by Robin Nelson and accompanied by the Oxford Symphony Orchestra. Soloists are Gaynor Keeble, James Oxley and Quentin Hays.

The performance starts at 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm) and tickets cost £10 (one free under 18 with one full paying adult). Available now from www.swindonchoral.org.uk, Swindon Information Centre, Central Library and in Marlborough from Sound Knowledge and White Horse Bookshop.

The Society always welcomes new new singers: Sopranos, Altos but especially more **Tenors** and **Basses**. If you haven't sung in choirs before, why not join us for a term to try us out! Rehearsals are held at 7.30 pm on Thursdays at Freshbrook Ecumenical Church.

For more information visit www.swindonchoral.org.uk

KATH DANSWAN

Purton Peartree Pealers

Purton's own Handbell Team was busy over the Christmas period, playing at various venues. These included Wootton Bassett's late night shopping and at Blooms Garden Centre; The Bell at Purton Stoke and Lydiard Mansion's Victorian Christmas, as well as concerts in Cricklade and Marlborough.

A cheque has been sent to the Prospect Hospice for £390 as a result of all this fundraising.

To find out more about the Handbells please contact Libbie: 771018.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Rainbows are continuing with the alphabet. For Ice they made a penguin picture and ate penguin biscuits; they played games beginning with J and for K they made a kangaroo. The unit celebrated the Chinese New Year and made a Chinese Lion puppet and followed this with Musical shakers.

2nd Purton Brownies said goodbye to Eva and Maddy who planned and ran their own leaving party. This was on a Disney theme and the Brownies were invited to dress as Disney characters for which prizes were awarded. They also had a Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

There have been welcomes too: Anna and Ellie have joined Rainbows whilst Katie, Amelia, Amelie, Layla, Kate, Jessica and Edie have joined the two Brownie units. 2nd Purton Brownies have held a promise evening for their new members already, with Jessica and Tamzin running a game of bingo as part of their work on the Hostess badge.

The two Brownie units have had similar themes: both have started on The Big Brownie Birthday Challenge by agreeing Codes of Conduct following discussion in sixes. They have also marked Chinese New Year. 1st Purton worked in sixes to create life-size dragons which they paraded whilst 2nd Purton made small card dragon boats. Girls and Leaders from the two units also attended the County Big Brownie Birthday Launch Party at the Hilton Hotel – they were among 600 Brownies from across the County who celebrated with games, dancing, a Punch & Judy show and of course food. All had a great time, Leaders included!

This term the Guides have planned their own Patrol pyjama parties. These involved popcorn, hot chocolate, marshmallows and plenty of sweets! They also wanted an evening of playing board games so Twister, Boggle, Guess Who and more were dusted off and played with gusto! The Guides have all renewed their Promise using the new words and Chloe, Emma, Katrina, Libbi, Lizzie and Rebecca made their Promise as a Guide for the first time.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested To find out more about guiding in the local area do look at www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision





It is our membership time and Mary Turner our membership secretary will be happy to discuss the various options with you on 07779 580893.

Winter league results are now looking positive and we expect the following results and we are delighted that our success continues:

A Team Top of division 1 B Team Top of division 2
C Team Top of division 5 D Team 3rd in division 6

Well done to all players for braving the elements and dodging the many rain drops!!

Nicola's Saturday morning coaching sessions start on 12 April so please come along it is absolutely free and teaches our young players the etiquette of tennis along with great tennis skills.

We have some great social events coming up including:

- Rock and Roll Bingo
- The every popular Race Night
- Parent and child tennis sessions
- Fun day for children (hopefully during Carnival week)

We will keep you posted as we know more detail!

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Purton Bowls Club



I must apologise to two of our senior members for not mentioning that they were both 90 years old in January of this year. Congratulations to Ron Slade and Ernie Paish. I know that Ron has not been in the best of health this last year and we wish him well and hope to see him at the club soon, Ernie is still playing, and I'm sure he will be turning out as soon as the season starts. Best wishes to both of you.

We are having a pre-season meeting on 21 March at 7.45 pm in the clubhouse. You are welcome to come along and meet with the members, see what we have planned for this year and join the Club if you want to. Remember, the ladies' winner of the recent World championships is only 18! Hopefully some youngsters will want to join, and where better than your local club.

The green will be opening on 12 April and we will have our first 'roll up' of the season 'weather permitting' and approval from the green keeper. This will be another opportunity to see what we do and to meet people.

We are still waiting for confirmation of all the fixtures for this season, and I will publish these in the coming months so that you know what is happening. The Coaching Evenings will start as soon as possible after the green opens, and they will be published in the April edition of the magazine.

For those of us that have played 'indoors' during the winter, and there are a couple of very good venues locally, we are now getting to the end of the season. Purton players have been doing well in the various competitions and leagues available to them. And we get to play in the dry!

There is a mix of clubs and players indoors, and you get to play with members from other clubs in your team. So when the outdoor season starts you bump into them now playing for their own clubs. It leads to very interesting banter!

We hope that you will come and join us, don't forget you can contact either myself, Peter Berry on 778119 or Alison Fail (our Secretary) on 770015.

PETER BERRY

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The first practice sessions at Prior Park were most encouraging. Sixteen juniors have been signed up to take part in the Winter Academy Coaching Scheme and the youngsters made an enthusiastic start to the ten week series based on cricket skills and techniques. The support for the first senior practice also saw sixteen players arrive. In both areas of the club this augurs well for what we hope will be another successful season.

Following the support for the Winter Academy an Easter Cricket School should leave our junior members more than ready for the start of outdoor matches in April.

The committee is hoping that by the end of April the club will have some form of electric power so that we are not reliant on power from a generator.

On 26 April, starting at 8.30 pm, at the Red House, the club is holding a Race Night. Any support which people can offer for this event will be much appreciated.

From the Archives

In a match between Purton and Cheltenham College played on 25 June 1850, Purton were convincing winners. In 'A Chronology of Sport in Cheltenham' compiled by Jill Walker the following appears:-

OCT 1855 'The young gentlemen of Cheltenham College requested the engagement of Mr James Lillwhite as the instructor in cricket. Lillwhite had previously taught cricket at Westminster School (1849), Eton (1852), Marlborough (1853) and the Clydesdale Club, Glasgow (1854).'

PS. Purton CC did not play Cheltenham College again so the 100% winning record stands. I wonder if the Headmaster and Governors would respond favourably to a request for a rematch in 2020, the two-hundredth anniversary of Purton CC and the one hundred and seventieth anniversary of the 1850 match.

JOE GARDNER

Purton & District Darts League

Darts Fees are due and each team needs to pay £60.00 with additional £10.00 per team for competition fees. These need paying NOW please to me urgently.



The Leatherbarrow Competition was held on January 14 at The Angel. After some excellent games, banter and all round fun, the overall winners were "The 180's" who were Lee Evans, Clive Read and Kelly Read. Close runners up were "The Holiday Boys", consisting of Clive Taylor, Kay Webb and A Morris.

Well done to the winners, and the gallant runners up, and to everyone for participating. Special thanks go to The Angel for hosting and the Committee for doing the boards. Thanks also for those that helped Bim and I clear up at the end.

The Singles competition has been completed and we now have our last 16 for Finals Night. The Pairs competition will commence on 6 March and the sheets will be issued to teams and venues in the next couple weeks. Thank you all again for your continued support and may the great games continue in 2014.

LISA MARTIN, Secretary, 0776 499 4933